

capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers, setting a cycle time based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space; and determining a number of read ahead data blocks based at least in part on said cycle time, said monitored data consumption rate, and a size of said data blocks.

220. The method of claim 210, wherein said I/O resources comprise I/O capacity and buffer memory space; wherein said monitoring of workload distribution comprises monitoring the number of existing viewers served from each of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices, and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; and wherein said method further comprises managing said I/O resources by balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers, and determining whether or not a capacity of said system is sufficient to support at least one additional viewer based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space; and wherein said method further comprises determining a read-ahead size by balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers, setting a cycle time based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space; and determining a number of read ahead data blocks based at least in part on said cycle time, said monitored data consumption rate, and a size of said data blocks.

221. A method of monitoring I/O resource utilization for delivery of information to a plurality of viewers from an information management system including storage system I/O resources and at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices; said method comprising logically monitoring workload of said at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices.

222. The method of claim 221, wherein said logical monitoring comprises:

monitoring a number of viewers being served by at least one logical volume contained at least in part on said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices, and monitoring the aggregated data consumption rates for said number of viewers being served by at least one logical volume contained at least in part on said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices; and

determining an estimated total number of viewers for said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices, and determining an estimated data consumption rate for said estimated total number of viewers based at least in part on said monitored number of viewers and said monitored aggregated consumption rates for said viewers.

223. The method of claim 221, wherein said delivered information comprises continuous media data, and wherein said storage system includes two or more storage devices or two or more partitioned groups of storage devices for delivery of said continuous media data.

224. The method of claim 223, wherein said information management system comprises a content delivery system coupled to a network; and wherein said continuous media data is delivered from said content delivery system to said plurality of viewers across said network.

225. The method of claim 224, wherein said content delivery system comprises an endpoint content delivery system coupled to said network at an endpoint of said network.

226. The method of claim 224, wherein said logical monitoring comprises:

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monitoring a number of viewers being served by at least a portion of each of said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices, and monitoring the aggregated data consumption rates for said number of viewers being served by said at least a portion of each of said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices;

monitoring a number of outstanding I/O requests for at least a portion of each of said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices;

determining an estimated total number of viewers for each of said at least two storage devices based at least in part on said number of viewers being served by at least a portion of each of said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices, and said monitored number of outstanding I/O requests for at least a portion of each of said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices; and

determining an estimated aggregated data consumption rate for each of said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices based at least in part on said estimated aggregated data consumption rate for said number of viewers being served by said at least a portion of each of said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices, and said monitored number of outstanding I/O requests for at least a portion of each of said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices.

227. The method of claim 226, further comprising:

determining an estimated workload distribution across said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices based at least in part on said monitored number of outstanding I/O requests for at least a portion of each of said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices;